

THE TITLE IX TRAP

Essential Scripts & Protocols
Parent Edition

"I need to speak with my attorney before I answer any questions."

If your son remembers nothing else, he must remember this sentence.

SECTION 1

The Conversation Framework

This is the most important conversation you will have before your son leaves for college. It should happen privately, face-to-face, without distractions.

Opening

"Before you leave for college, we need to have a conversation that may feel uncomfortable. This is not about trust. It's about protecting your future."

Brain Science

"The part of the brain that governs impulse control and long-term risk assessment continues developing into the mid-20s. That doesn't mean you're immature. It means you are still building judgment under pressure."

This is why I'm asking you to be extra careful during your first semester. Not because I don't trust you, but because I know your brain is still building the systems that help you see danger before it happens."

The Red Zone

"The first 12 weeks of college carry elevated risk. New social environments, alcohol, and lack of context create vulnerability."

I want you to consider waiting until after Thanksgiving to hook up with anyone. By then, you'll actually know people. You'll have context about who's trustworthy, who's reasonable, who your friends vouch for."

I'm not trying to control your life. But I am asking you to be strategic. That's just 12 weeks."

Title IX Reality

"Campus conduct investigations operate under administrative standards that are separate from criminal court. The standard of evidence is lower. Early statements can significantly affect outcomes. Speaking

without counsel can unintentionally create risk.

Campus police and administrators document statements. If someone accuses you of misconduct, anything you say can be used in both an administrative process and a criminal one. You are not required to answer without counsel present."

SECTION 2

The Non-Negotiable Rule

"If anyone—campus police, Title IX office, an administrator, your RA, anyone—wants to question you about an accusation or an incident, here's exactly what you do:"

"I need to speak with my attorney before I answer any questions."

"Then call me immediately. Not after you hear what they want. Not after you get more information. Immediately.

Do not text anyone involved. Do not post on social media. Do not try to resolve anything on your own.

We will get you an attorney within the hour. The attorney will tell you what to say.

Let me hear you say it. Out loud. Right now."

Practice this with him. Have him say the words aloud, multiple times, until it feels natural.

SECTION 3

Handling Objections

He will push back. That is normal. Here is how to respond:

He says:	You say:
"But I didn't do anything wrong."	"Even when you believe you did nothing wrong, it is still important to proceed carefully."
"Won't asking for a lawyer make me look guilty?"	"Asking for a lawyer means you understand the process. Speaking without guidance can have serious consequences."
"I just want to tell them what happened."	"Every family we spoke with said their biggest regret was that their son provided a statement without an attorney present."

SECTION 4

The Friend Group Protocol

"One of the smartest things you can do is find 2–3 guys you trust within your first few weeks and agree to look out for each other. Rotating who stays sober at parties, making sure nobody leaves alone with someone they just met, checking in with each other.

This isn't about being paranoid. It's about having backup. Your friends can see things you can't see when you're distracted. And you can do the same for them."

*Unclear communication after drinking can create serious consequences.
A sober friend changes the entire dynamic.*

SECTION 5

Location Sharing Agreement

"I need you to keep location sharing on. I know that feels like surveillance. But if you are ever accused of something, location data can document where you actually were. Multiple students have been helped by their location data confirming their account. Let's make a deal: I keep location sharing for safety and documentation. You trust me not to check it constantly or text asking where you are. This is for emergencies and protection, not monitoring. Deal?"

SECTION 6

Closing the Conversation

"I know this is heavy. I know it feels like I'm being overly cautious. But I've spoken with families who've been through this, and every single one wished they'd had this conversation before their son left.

I love you. I trust you. And I want to make sure you're protected."

QUICK REFERENCE

Key Phrases at a Glance

Situation	Say this:
To campus police	"I need to speak with my attorney before I answer any questions."
To the Title IX office	"I've been advised not to discuss this without my attorney present."

To you (if accused)	"I need you to call me right now. Someone is accusing me of something and I haven't talked to anyone yet."
To his wingman	"Leaving with [name]. Check on me in an hour."
Morning after (if fine)	"Good seeing you last night. Hope you got home okay."

See **Essential Scripts & Protocols — Student Edition** for tactical night-of, texting, and wingman protocols.

The Title IX Trap is an educational resource. It does not constitute legal advice. Consult qualified legal counsel for specific situations.